AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A station for storing and refilling with ink a cartridge of a printhead having a spongy body to be refilled, comprising:

a container with a collection chamber defining a first volume, the collection chamber containing a predetermined quantity of ink for refilling completely the spongy body of said cartridge a plurality of times, said collection chamber being arranged adjacently to a bottom wall of said container, said bottom wall serving as a support platform [[or]] for said container on a horizontal plane so as to define a vertical operating position of said station, said container having an external shape defining at least one side wall of said container and also being provided with a housing attached to a top wall of said container and suitable for accommodating said cartridge;

capillary refilling means having a first end at least partially immersed in said predetermined quantity of ink when said station is arranged in said vertical operating position, and a second end for extending inside the housing and suitable for cooperating with said cartridge for transferring by capillarity said ink from said collection chamber to said spongy body of said cartridge; and

a back-flow compartment defining a second volume, the back-flow compartment surrounding said housing and communicating freely with said collection chamber for receiving the ink contained in said collection chamber when said station is turned on from said vertical

operating position,

wherein the second volume defined by the back-flow compartment is dimensioned and configured with respect to the first volume defined by the collection chamber ~~said back-flow compartment and said collection chamber having their respective volumes proportionate in such a way~~ such that, when said station is tilted from said vertical operating position and placed along any side wall of said container in a tilted position on said horizontal plane, or when said station is turned upside down with respect to said vertical operating position, a sufficient amount of said predetermined quantity of ink flows back from said collection chamber to said back-flow compartment~~, whereby~~ to cause said first end of said capillary refilling means ~~emerges~~ to emerge from said ink, whereby ~~and~~ any leakage of ink through said second end of said capillary refilling means is avoided.

13. (Currently Amended) The station according to claim [[12]] 21, wherein the second volume defined by said back-flow compartment ~~has a volume~~ is at least equal to ~~the~~ a volume of said predetermined quantity of ink.

14. (Currently Amended) The station according to claim [[12]] 21, wherein said capillary refilling means is disposed in a central position with respect to said bottom wall and symmetrical with respect to the side walls of said container.

15. (Currently Amended) The station according to claim [[12]] 21, wherein said capillary

refilling means comprises an elongated capillary element passing through a bottom wall of said housing and having a lower end facing said bottom wall and an upper end suitable for being inserted in said cartridge for transferring said ink through ~~capillary~~ capillarity from said container to said cartridge.

16. (Previously Presented) The station according to claim 15, wherein said capillary element is inserted in an impermeable, tube-like element attached to said housing and extending in said collection chamber perpendicularly to said bottom wall, said tube-like element also being disposed in a position that is central with respect to said bottom wall and symmetrical with respect to the side walls of said container, so that said capillary element is not covered by said ink when said container is tilted laterally or turned upside down.

17. (Previously Presented) The station according to claim 16, wherein said tube-like element consists of a rigid pipe attached to said bottom wall of said housing.

18. (Previously Presented) The station according to claim 16, wherein said tube-like element consists of a rigid and impermeable sheath attached tightly to said bottom wall.

19. (Previously Presented) The station according to claim 15, wherein said lower end of said capillary element is placed at a distance of not more than about 5 cm from said bottom wall.

20. (Currently Amended) The station according to claim [[12]] 21, wherein said container comprises a compensating device for balancing differences in hydrostatic pressure between ~~and~~ said collection chamber and said cartridge, said compensating device comprising a lamina valve attached against a boss of the bottom wall of said housing, said lamina comprising a flexible portion suitable for elastically assuming one or the other of two positions at opposite ends with respect to a rest position, when said lamina is urged by the difference in hydrostatic pressure between the cartridge and the collection chamber or vice versa.

21. (New) The station according to claim 12, wherein said second end is suitable for directly transferring by capillarity said ink from said collection chamber to said spongy body of said cartridge.